

John Boehner  
Chairman  
8th District, Ohio

*House Meets at 10:00 a.m. for Legislative Business*

*Anticipated Floor Action:*

**H.R. 437—National Sea Grant College Program Reauthorization Act**



**National Sea Grant College Program Reauthorization Act**

**Floor Situation:** The House will consider H.R. 437 as its only order of business today. Last Tuesday, the Rules Committee granted an open rule providing one hour of general debate, with 40 minutes equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Resources Committee and 20 minutes equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Science Committee. The rule makes in order a committee amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the *Congressional Record* as base text. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

**Summary:** H.R. 437 reauthorizes the National Sea Grant College Program (NSGCP) through fiscal year 2000. The bill sets new authorization levels at \$54.3 million for FY 1998 (equal to the FY 1997 level), \$55.4 million for FY 1999, and \$56.5 million for FY 2000. The bill also (1) simplifies the definition of activities eligible for sea grant funding; (2) clarifies the responsibilities of sea grant colleges, the national program office, and the director of the program; (3) streamlines the grant process; (4) requires the national office to ensure that all research is peer-reviewed, and that all sea grant colleges follow those guidelines when awarding grants; (5) repeals the international grant program (which has never been funded); and (6) caps NGSCP administrative expenses at five percent of appropriations. CBO estimates that enactment will result in additional discretionary spending of \$166 million over the 1998-2000 period, assuming appropriations are made available equal to the authorized amount. The bill was introduced by Mr. Saxton, reported by voice vote by the Resources Committee on March 5, 1997, and adopted by the Science Committee by voice vote on April 21, 1997.

**Views (on the overall bill):****Republican Leadership:** Supports**Chairman Young:** Supports**Clinton Administration:** Supports

**Amendments:** At press time, the *Legislative Digest* was not aware of any amendments to H.R. 437.

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVI, #17, June 13, 1997.



PLEASE NOTE: UNDER AN OPEN RULE, MEMBERS MAY OFFER ENTIRELY NEW AMENDMENTS TO A BILL AT ANY TIME, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY HAVE BEEN PRE-PRINTED IN THE *CONGRESSIONAL RECORD*.

---

Brian Fortune: *Editor*

S. Kevin Washington:  
*Senior Legislative Analyst*

Becci Clark, Melissa Decker,  
Jimmy Papadimitriu, Kevin Smith:  
*Legislative Analysts*



Legislative  
Digest